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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION  
SUDAN PEACE ACCORD  
TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS  
PARIS - TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#). MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION
- [2](#). SUDAN PEACE ACCORD
- [3](#). TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS ARE FEATURED BOTH IN LEAD STORIES AND IN EDITORIALS, INCLUDING DOMESTIC POLITICAL STORIES AND REPORTS ON THE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT TO REACH AFFECTED AREAS. ONE MAJOR FRONT-PAGE STORY REMAINS THE ELECTION OF MAHMUD ABBAS AND THE TASK AT HAND, FOR HIM, SHARON AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IN HIS RADIO COMMENTARY BERNARD GUETTA CONTENTS THAT "AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS NEED TO SPEAK AS ONE." IN HIS EDITORIAL IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX BRUNO FRAPPAT IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 2005, THANKS IN PART TO THE PALESTINIAN ELECTION, BUT ALSO "DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE AND A PEACE ACCORD IN SUDAN." (SEE PART C)

THE PEACE ACCORD REACHED IN SUDAN IS HERALDED BY LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION AS "SECRETARY POWELL'S LEGACY" AND AN "ANTI-IRAQ." (SEE PART C)

IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER ECONOMIC LES ECHOS ESSAYIST LAURENT COHEN-TANUGI WRITES A COLUMN TITLED "TWO VISIONS OF THE WORLD" WHICH MAKE UP "THE BACKDROP LANDSCAPE OF THE RECENT TRANSATLANTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TENSION." HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT PRESIDENTS BUSH AND CHIRAC CAN FIND GROUNDS FOR AGREEMENT. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTION

"THE FRAILTY OF A GREAT HOPE"  
BERNARD GUETTA ON GOVERNMENT-RUN FRANCE INTER RADIO (01/11):  
"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HOPE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT HAS NEVER BEEN SO GREAT. ONE MUST ALSO DEFINE UNDER WHICH CONDITIONS THIS MEASURE OF HOPE WILL BECOME REALITY. AFTER THE INITIAL EUPHORIA, THE DIFFICULTIES WILL BEGIN TO EMERGE. UNLESS THE WORLD TAKES OVER THE PEACE EFFORT, THIS OPPORTUNITY COULD BECOME A MISSED OPPORTUNITY. THE U.S. AND THE EU MUST BOTH ACT, BUT IN WHAT WAY? THE URGENCY DOES NOT LIE IN TRYING TO ACCELERATE CHANGES THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE; MENTALITIES NEED TIME IN ORDER TO ADAPT TO CHANGES. BUT MEANWHILE THE U.S. AND THE EU MUST SPEAK AS ONE AND REAFFIRM TOGETHER DURING THEIR FEBRUARY SUMMIT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ROADMAP, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AND THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY THE ARAB WORLD."

SUDAN PEACE ACCORD

"PEACE UNDER U.S. PATRONAGE"  
CHRISTOPHE AYAD IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (01/11): "IT IS COLIN POWELL'S LEGACY. THE PEACE AGREEMENT REACHED IN SUDAN IS PROOF THAT ONE CAN BRING A ROGUE STATE TO REPENT WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO EITHER ADVENTURE OR WAR. THIS IS A SORT OF ANTI-IRAQ, EVEN IF THERE WAS NO COMMON MEASURE BETWEEN SUDAN'S ISLAMIC-PRAGMATIC REGIME AND SADDAM HUSSEIN'S REGIME. SUDAN'S LEADERS, LIKE COLONEL KADAFI, SOON LEARNED THAT THEY COULD BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S ANTI-TERRORIST CRUSADE AND ACCEPTED TO GO TO THE NEGOTIATIONS TABLE SET BY SPECIAL ENVOY JOHN DANFORTH. THE SUDANESE PEACE AGREEMENT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT BUSH AS A NEW VICTORY IN HIS CRUSADE OF GOOD AGAINST EVIL."

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

"TWO VISIONS OF THE WORLD"  
LAURENT COHEN-TANUGI IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (01/11):  
"THERE ARE TWO VISIONS OF THE WORLD CONFRONTING EACH OTHER. THE FIRST, CLEARLY EXPOSED BY FRENCH DIPLOMACY, CLAIMS THAT TODAY'S IMBALANCE STEMS FROM THE U.S. POSITION AS SOLE WORLD POWER, WHICH GENERATES NEFARIOUS UNILATERALISM AND UNDERMINES

THE MULTIPOLAR ORDER EMBODIED BY THE UN. THE REMEDY TO THIS STRUCTURAL IMBALANCE IS TO FAVOR THE EMERGENCE OF NEW POLES OF POWER THAT CAN SERVE AS COUNTERWEIGHTS FOR AMERICA'S SUPREMACY, SUCH AS THE EU. THE OTHER OPPOSING VISION RESULTS FROM A DIFFERENT ANALYSIS OF EVENTS POST THE COLD WAR AND 9/11. THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO THIS ANALYSIS, IS THREATENED BY GROWING DISORDER, AS ILLUSTRATED BY TERRORISM, ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM, NUCLEAR ARMS PROLIFERATION AND THE BIRTH OF NEW ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY POWERS WHICH ARE STRONGLY NATIONALISTIC, LACK DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS, AND ARE THEREFORE IN OPPOSITION TO WESTERN VALUES. THIS VISION PROMOTES THE IDEA OF CONCENTRATING THE WEIGHT OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, AND FAVORS IN PRIORITY SOLIDARITY BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S. . THESE TWO VISIONS ARE RADICALLY OPPOSED. AND DEEPLY INGRAINED IN NATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL SENSIBILITIES. NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS OVER WHICH BOTH SIDES CAN AGREE: EUROPE WILL HAVE ALL THE MORE INFLUENCE ON THE U.S. IF IT IS UNITED AND STRONG; RE-ENFORCING THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP IS NOT A HOSTILE MOVE AGAINST THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE ARAB-MUSLIM WORLD; THE MORE THE EU EXPANDS AND DEVOTES ITSELF TO STABILIZING ITS DISTANT SHORES, THE MORE IT WILL BE DEPENDENT ON AMERICAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES TO INSURE ITS SECURITY AND DEFEND ITS VALUES ACROSS THE WORLD. PRESIDENTS BUSH AND CHIRAC SHOULD FIND SOME COMMON GROUND FOR AGREEMENT OVER THESE FEW ISSUES." LEACH